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Fitness expert answers readers' questions
HEALTH, PAGE C6



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OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



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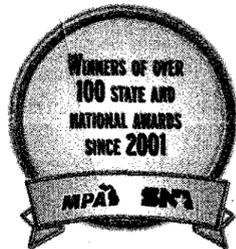


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Bush proposal could threaten city programs

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland could lose \$1.2 million a year — money for senior citizen services, a youth-help program, low-income housing repairs and fire-fighter equipment — under a new plan by President George W. Bush.

The city could even be forced to close the Dorsey Community Center — a facility that provides emergency food, after-school programs, a community police office and other services in the heart of Westland's low-income Norway neighborhood, officials said.

The grim scenario came from Westland Housing Director James Gilbert, amid Bush's proposal to slash Community Development Block Grant dollars, realign certain programs and shift them to the U.S. Commerce Department.

"We've fixed a lot of roads (with CDBG money)," Gilbert said. "We've installed a lot of sewers."

Westland for 30 years has participated in CDBG-funded programs that could be eliminated or dramatically scaled back under Bush's plan. City officials are encouraging residents to contact their federal lawmakers, such as U.S.

Reps. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and Joe Knollenberg, R-Birmingham, to voice opposition to the changes.

The \$1.2 million that Westland receives each year for CDBG programs accounts for one-third of the city's budget for senior citizen programs and 25-30 percent of the money available for Youth Assistance, which provides services to help troubled youngsters.

City officials worry that they couldn't pay for such programs, if the plan is carried out.

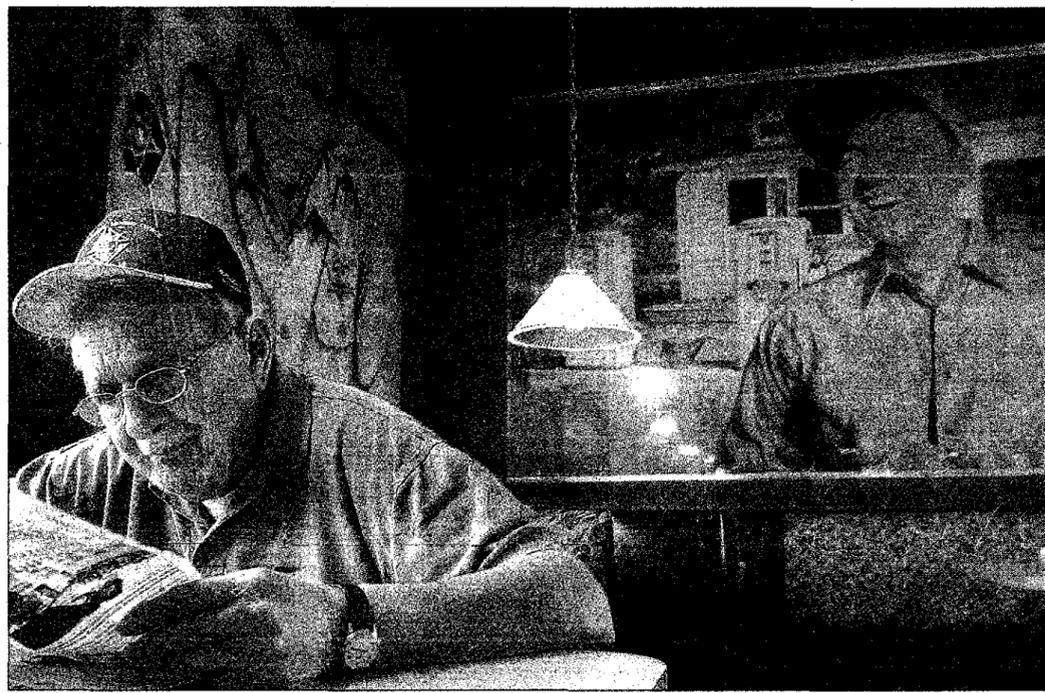
"It is alarming that it's even being discussed," Westland City Councilman Richard LeBlanc said last week, during a council session.

A majority of U.S. senators already have signed a petition opposing Bush's plan — an indication of possible trouble for what Gilbert called a "radical proposal."

U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow — both Democrats — already have signed letters opposing the changes, said Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

Westland has the third-largest housing commission in Wayne County, Gilbert said, and efforts to improve low-income homes and keep them livable could be threatened, officials said.

It wasn't clear last week when the issue might ultimately be resolved.



Hank Sdonik reads the newspaper under the smiling face of Gomer Pyle as he waits for his breakfast at Mayberry's.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frontier Park group to push for tax vote

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A citizens group lobbying for a huge sports complex near Central City Park will push for a November tax proposal to pay for the project.

Citizens for Frontier Park (CFP) Chairman Mark Rodriguez voiced hope that the Westland City Council will decide to place a tax question on the Nov. 8 election ballot.

In the same year that a majority of council members face reelection, five of seven members would have to vote to place the issue on the ballot.

Another alternative would be for Frontier Park proponents to initiate a petition drive and collect more than 2,000 signatures from registered voters to force a ballot proposal.

Frontier Park leaders have

suggested a possible 1-mill tax proposal that would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$50 a year, according to city administration officials.

With a Frontier Park price tag of \$35 million or higher, some city officials have said the ballot proposal would likely need to be more than 1 mill.

CFP leaders envision a 60-acre proposal that would include three soccer fields, including one indoor facility; eight baseball fields; two sheets of ice for hockey and figure-skating; an indoor, competition-size pool; two additional basketball courts at the Bailey Center; walking trails and ponds; and a special-needs playing field, among other features.

The group touted its plan Wednesday evening during a

PLEASE SEE FRONTIER, A4

Taste for TV

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

You won't find Gomer Pyle at Mayberry's Family Restaurant, but you will find food good enough for Aunt Bee's nod of approval.

When the restaurant opened in 1991, customers could smell the home town cooking.

It wasn't Aunt Bee serving up the grub, but Mark Katinsky of Westland, the owner of the unique establishment located on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

Restaurant serves its meals with a dose of 'Mayberry'

Fans of the Andy Griffith TV show, which is as popular in reruns today as it was decades ago, were particularly drawn to the restaurant.

Because Katinsky opened his new restaurant during Operation Desert Storm — wartime — he looked for "homey" names that conjured up images of America, patriotism and apple pie.

Customers kept the Mayberry questions



Westland resident Mark Katinsky, owner of Mayberry's Family Restaurant, keeps the Mayberry tradition alive at his restaurant by displaying images and tapes of the classic television show.

flowing when they ordered food.

They asked questions like: "Is that Aunt Bee's apple pie?" and "Is that an Opie Burger?"

Katinsky keeps the memories alive.

"We run Mayberry reruns on the TVs," Katinsky said.

The restaurant has a variety of Mayberry collectibles.

"Customers bring things in for us," Katinsky said. "A customer, a truck driver, who was out in Tennessee, brought me a Mayberry's cookbook."

James Kitts from Kitts Industrial Tools in Farmington Hills, brought in a metal sign bearing a Barney Fife photo, Katinsky said. Fife was a character in the show.

Katinsky took some photos from the show to

PLEASE SEE MAYBERRY, A4

Campaign aims to buy thermal imaging cameras

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland Jaycees — a group of young adult leaders — will lead an ambitious campaign to raise \$70,000 for special cameras that city firefighters will use to save lives and protect property.

The Jaycees will try to raise the money to buy five heat-sensing cameras — called thermal imagers — that help firefighters locate people and find hidden flames in walls, attics and other places.

"People in a burning building will show up on this camera," Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "These cameras scan a room and find bodies that are giving off heat. People can be seen through all the smoke and darkness, and firefighters know where to go to rescue those folks."

The thermal imagers also can help local authorities find missing people.

"If someone gets lost in the woods, these cameras will pick up their body heat," Reddy said.

The technology doesn't come cheap. Each camera costs as much as \$14,000, he said.

Westland Jaycees will try to raise enough money to buy one thermal imager a year during the next five years. However, Wendy Taylor — the group's vice president of community development — said it's possible the project may reap faster results.

"Personally, I'd like to see us get them all this year, if we can," she said.

Jaycees and firefighters officially launched the project Wednesday during a campaign kickoff at Marvaso's Italian Grille in Westland.

"These thermal imagers are unbelievable. They not only save lives, but they can save property and save our firemen," Taylor said.

The cameras work by detecting heat sources — a body, hidden flames — in burning structures where seconds can mean the difference in survival or death.

PLEASE SEE CAMERAS, A4

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A bridge between generations

PCA program matches students with seniors

BY NANCY DEUTSCH
CORRESPONDENT

Like many other teenagers, 17-year-old Eric Immerfall of Plymouth doesn't spend much time with older people. So when his senior class at Plymouth Christian Academy took part in 'Seniors Then and Now' - a project pairing students with senior citizens at a nursing home - Eric was a bit nervous. He wasn't sure what he and the senior that he would be paired with would have to talk about. The person might even be senile, he thought.

He was aware of the program, though. Last year, when a few juniors were asked to participate to help out, Eric was paired with a woman in her 90s, who he found to be quite coherent, but also very lonely.

"Her family never visited anymore and she wanted to die," he recalled.

This year, he was paired with 91-year-old Don Donaldson. But all Eric's fears vanished once he and Donaldson met. They hit it off, something that was apparent at the Seniors Then and Now party, held recently at Plymouth Christian Academy (PCA).

"We talk about everything," Donaldson enthused. "Why he picked this school, about his family, and where he's going after graduation. I'm really impressed with him."

Eric says the project, which started last year, has been an eye-opener.

"I think it's awesome. It brings awareness that they're real people," he said. "They're not out of it and they realize that we care about them."

One thing he has found is that seniors usually don't have any problem coming up with topics for discussion.

"They have lots of stories and love to talk," he noted.

Heather Shamie, 17, of Canton, who also participated, agreed.

"I expected it to be awkward and for us not to relate to each other. It's been wonderful," she said.

Heather was paired with Gerry Jacoby, 76, who has suffered through a traumatic year. Her husband died six months ago. Heather has enjoyed listening to Jacoby's stories about her husband and their life together.



PHOTOS BY AMANDA YU

Amanda Slater models an outfit during the 'Then and Now' fashion show at the PCA Seniors party last week at PCA. Jenna Nill, Parker Welling and Kristen Macauley (in rear from left) also participated.



Marge Winebrener and Plymouth Christian Academy senior Jared Stothers enjoy each other's company during the Seniors 'Then and Now' party at PCA.

"She's such a good example of true love. A lot of time we don't get to see true love. It's inspirational," Heather said.

Both Heather and Eric hope to keep in touch with their senior citizen friends.

"She has really impacted my life," Heather said of Jacoby.

John Zylka, director of advancement for PCA, came up with the idea for the project last year when his daughter

was a senior at the school. While there were many events for her to attend, such as homecoming, he realized that every event was "all about the kid."

Being a Christian, "we know it's better to give than to receive" so Zylka prayed, and came up with the idea of doing something with the elderly. He felt his prayers were answered the next day when he mentioned his plan

to someone he knew, whose husband just happened to work at Presbyterian Village in Westland. From that point, it was just a matter of working out the details.

Participation is voluntary, but all 53 seniors at the school have chosen to take part, Zylka said. The same was true of last year's students.

The school arranged two visits to see the senior citizens in February, and many students made at least one other visit on their own, he said. As he did last year, Zylka arranged an elaborate party for the end of the project, using donated funds. Last year he solicited funds from a variety of sources, but this year one anonymous donor came forth, and offered to pay for the party, which costs about \$10,000.

Expenses are not spared, Zylka said.

"It's like a wedding," he said.

The party that took place Feb. 26 was lavish. There was a red carpet rolled out to welcome the seniors, the Bill Cairo band played old time tunes, there was Good Humor ice cream and retro candy, plus a dinner served on china. The senior citizens were bussed in, and each sat with their student. They all came dressed to the nines.

Jacoby was happy to come to the party for the second year in a row.

"I couldn't wait to come," she said. "It's wonderful to see young faces when you live in a place like that."

When senior citizens living in the Plymouth area heard about the party last year, they wanted to come too, Zylka said, so he quickly arranged a second party held the afternoon after the dinner, which is open to the public. Brunch is served, albeit on plastic, but the event has become popular, he noted. About 200 people attended the Feb. 27 event. Zylka hopes Seniors Then and Now will continue for years to come.

Jacoby hopes to keep in touch with the students she has met to date. She still hears from her student partner of last year, Andrew Losen of Belleville.

"He has kept in touch," she said. Recently he even "picked me up and took me to Big Boy."

Schools seek input on demographic changes

The Livonia Public Schools Demographics Committee is considering changing the district's grade level configuration, altering school attendance borders, and possibly closing more schools, all to improve its mission - educating students.

Made up of administrators, teachers, students, support staff, community members and school board trustees, the committee was established to achieve two specific goals.

According to Supt. Randy Liepa, demographics committee members are charged to look at educational needs throughout the district, and to find the most efficient ways of achieving those needs which support student learning.

After several months, the committee has now set out to speak with PTA and community groups regarding future plans in the district.

Changes could be made to any of the following:

- The configuration of grades in the schools - which currently places grades K-6 in elementary schools, grades 7

- and 8 in middle schools and grades 9-12 in high schools.

- School attendance borders.

- Cost effective use of resources in the district.

- School building uses and location.

- Student population.

"We are a changing district," said Ken McMullen, narrating an informational video detailing the project. "What if anything could we do to be more fiscally responsible?"

No decisions have been made yet, but the district has posed a challenge for its community members to speak up. Here's what they want to know:

- What do you want the Demographics Committee to think about?

- Why is this important to you?

"We're looking for feedback as we move forward," Liepa said.

Contact Livonia Public Schools at (734) 744-2500 or online at <http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/>.

By Stephanie A. Casola

PLACES AND FACES

Historic fashions

Local historians will sponsor an "old-time" fashion show and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, to raise money to help repair the city's historic Octagon House.

The cost is \$12 per person. The event will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on Ford Road. The show will be held in memory of the late Howard Becker, who was a supporter of the Octagon House.

For more information or to inquire about tickets, call (734) 729-1605, (734) 522-3918 or (734) 729-2953.

St. Patty's Party

The fun for seniors continues at the Village of Westland which is holding a Day after St. Patty's Party. The party begins at 1 p.m. and includes Irish entertainment and refreshments. Reservations are necessary and must be made by Tuesday, March 15. Call (734) 762-8926.

Mom to Mom sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold its first annual Mom to Mom sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the church, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland. Used infant and children's items will be for sale.

There also will be a raffle and food will be available.

Admission is \$1 for adults and children free when accompanied by a parent.

Youth help

Westland Youth Assistance is inviting its supporters to attend a fund-raiser 4-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at Johnny Carino's Italian restaurant on Warren Road, between Wayne and Newburgh.

Food servers will donate their tips to the program, and dona-

tions will be accepted from diners, Director Ronaele Bowman said.

The program provides mentors and a variety of services to youngsters who are improving their lives after getting into trouble.

For more information, call (734) 467-7904.

Blood drive

Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne will host its annual Red Cross blood drive 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in the gymnasium of the school, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne. The blood drive is open to the public and no appointment is necessary. Blood donors must be 17 years old or older and weigh more than 110 pounds. Piercing is acceptable, if it was done at a place that uses sterile needles or studs. Tattoos requires a 12-month waiting period.

For more information, call Vickie Lewis at (734) 419-2204.

Poker Tournament

The Westland Jaycees is sponsoring a Texas Holdem Tournament and Vegas Night Saturday, April 16, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. The tournament starts promptly at 6 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m. Pre-register by mail by April 1 for \$40. Send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to the Westland Jaycees, P.O. Box 85191, Westland, MI 48185. Register at the door for \$50, beginning at 4:30 p.m. There will be no rebuy-ins during the tournament.

The Vegas Night will open at 7 p.m. and include blackjack, Let It Ride, Holdem and seven-card poker. Food, beer and pop also will be available.

For more information, call (734) 228-0400 or by e-mail at wholdem@yahoo.com.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

ALYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
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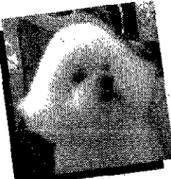
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THE GOLD STANDARD IN SELF-STORAGE

National study describes St. Mary Mercy as 'elite hospital'

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

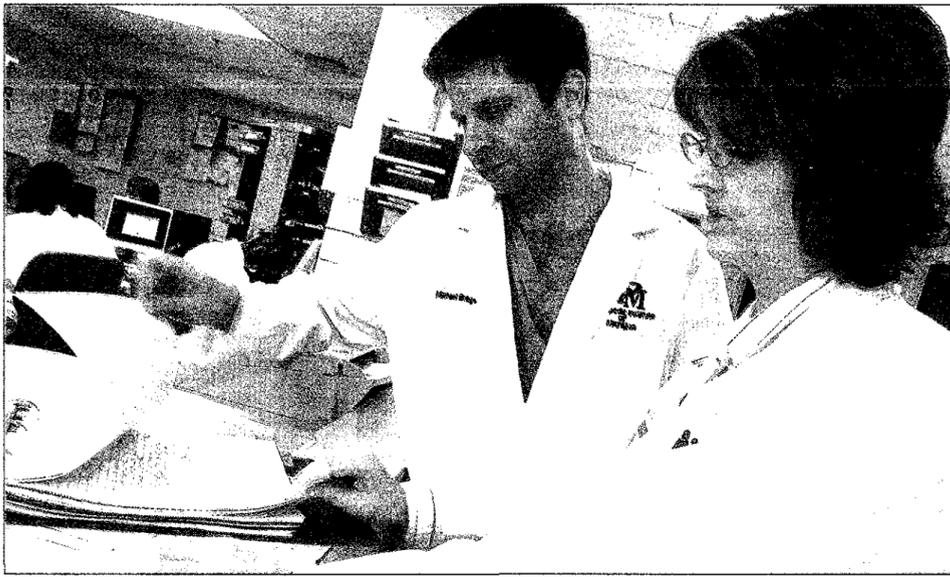
Two national honors, increasing patient numbers and constant equipment upgrades are the latest feats for St. Mary Mercy Hospital as it continues its evolution from community facility into top-notch regional hospital.

"St. Mary Mercy cares for patients everyday with serious complications," said Julie Sproul, vice president of marketing and public relations. "Now, to have a third-party, independent, national organization rate our care as one of the best, compared to hospitals across the country, speaks to the quality of the care our patients receive right here, close to home."

The 304-bed Livonia facility received the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence and Distinguished Award for Patient Safety, according to the HealthGrades, a Denver medical analysis and consulting company which examines years of data from 4,890 hospitals across the country.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital was one of 30 U.S. hospitals to collect both honors, and one of two in Michigan, along with Dearborn's Oakwood Hospital. The hospital staff and community leaders will gather today, March 10, to celebrate the national accolades.

"St. Mary is truly an elite hospital in terms of clinical outcomes," said



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Michael Branger and clinical nurse specialist Shirley Grahek go over a chart at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Todd Van Fossen, a consultant at HealthGrades. "Hospitals on this list have a distinguishable higher rate of patient survival when it comes to those hospitals not on the list."

HealthGrades analyzed treatment of 28 medical procedures and diag-

noses, including stroke, heart attack and pneumonia. St. Mary Mercy was among the top 5 percent in the nation based on low rates of complications and mortality, earning the award for clinical excellence.

The hospital was among the top 2 percent in the nation in patient

safety and low rates of medical errors, garnering the award for patient safety.

"We're looking for hospitals who perform at a high level," Van Fossen said. "We use their examples to consult other hospitals to help them improve their care and services."

The recent honors are a culmination of numerous management- and care-improvement initiatives at St. Mary Mercy, said hospital president and CEO David Spivey. Those initiatives were fueled by analysis of each step of a patient's treatment at the hospital.

For example, he noted the hospital's effort to improve care for stroke patients in 2001. To diagnose such patients and direct them to treatment as soon as possible, St. Mary's engaged in a comprehensive program that coordinated numerous hospital departments - from the emergency room, to the radiology staff, to the pharmacy.

"That was a great example of how we all came together to improve care for our patients," Spivey said. "We're all engaged in working together as a team, and that teamwork mentality is improving our patient care."

Recently, the hospital enhanced treatment for cardiac and cancer patients and added magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment.

In 2004, the hospital treated 42,126 emergency room patients, conducted 9,088 surgeries, tended to 151,554 outpatient treatments and 13,306 were admitted for inpatient care. Most patients come from Livonia, Westland, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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6 apartments damaged in fire

A short circuit in a bathroom fan is being blamed for a fire last Sunday that damaged six apartments at Trafalgar Square, on Venoy south of Cherry Hill.

No one was injured during the 2 p.m. fire. The fire started in a second-floor unit of the three-story apartment building, Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. The flames spread to apartments on the first and third floors, he said.

Three apartments sustained damage from the fire; three others had smoke damage, Reddy said.

Residents of the three units that had fire damage have been moved into other apartments, he said. A resident who lives in the apartment where the fire started was home at the time.

"He attempted to put it out but couldn't," Reddy said.

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CAMERAS

FROM PAGE A1

Jaycees groups across the nation have made buying thermal imagers one of their top priorities.

"I watched a video of a demonstration where they filled a building with smoke and had to rescue some actors," Taylor said. "The firefighters were able to bring out two of the three people in the fire in just over six minutes, but they couldn't find the third child."

"The thing was, they had to go right past that child to get to the other two people, but weren't able to see him in the smoke," she added. "When they did the demonstration a sec-

ond time with an imager, it took them just over a minute and a half to bring out all three people.

"If it was one of my family members in that house, the difference between minutes and seconds would mean everything to me."

The Jaycees will be announcing its fund-raisers throughout the year. Moreover, anyone who wants to donate to the project may call (734) 226-0400.

"This is a project that directly affects every single person that has a home or business in Westland - and even those who just know someone who does," Taylor said.

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Seminar sheds light on autism treatments

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

As the mother of a 3-year-old diagnosed with mild to moderate autism, Sherri Breen of Garden City is willing to try just about any treatment she believes will help her son.

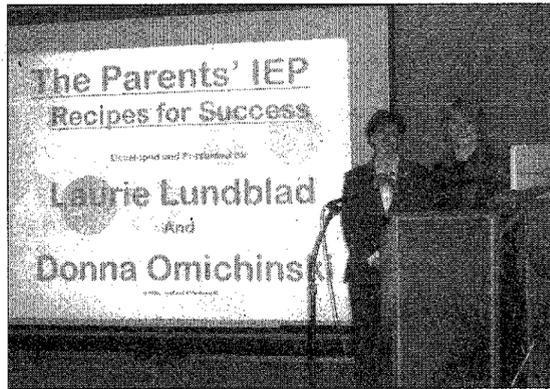
That's why she was at Madonna University recently for the seminar, "Choices in Autism," presented by Speech, Language & Sensory-Motor Systems of Plymouth. The day-long symposium was designed to enlighten parents of children diagnosed as autistic on the multitude of treatment options available.

Breen's son, Gavin Baldwin, was diagnosed in May 2004 after she had fought for some six months to get a correct diagnosis. Breen, who sensed something wrong with her son, at first couldn't get doctors to diagnose the autism.

After seeking multiple opinions, doctors finally confirmed her suspicions. Breen moved from Lincoln Park to Garden City to allow Gavin to attend the Burger Center for Students with Autism, and Gavin has made progress since the move.

"I had always said there was something different about him," said Breen. "I didn't want to think he was autistic, but I knew he was, so I had to keep pushing."

She's tried a variety of therapies, and teachers at the Burger Center are making great progress with him. Gavin, who his mother



Laurie Lundblad and Donna Omichinski talked about dealing with autism from a parental perspective during the 'Choices in Autism' symposium at Madonna University.

describes as non-verbal, is now "making great strides." But she went to the symposium still seeking ways to help.

"I would go on the Internet and get myself crazy with information," Breen said. "(The symposium) was very informative for me. I want to try anything that might help him as long as it's not invasive."

She got plenty of information. More than half a dozen experts made presentations during the symposium, including Dr. Richard Solomon at the Ann Arbor Center for Development and Behavioral Pediatrics.

The speakers, all well-known in their respective fields around the metro area, focused on a wide range of treatment

options for the approximately 100 parents who attended. While the symposium was designed for all parents of autistic kids, it especially targeted those newly diagnosed.

"There are a lot of treatments available; there's not one 'right' treatment for everyone," said Stephanie Naberhaus, clinical director at Speech, Language & Sensory-Motor Systems. "We wanted parents to be able to come to one place and learn. We wanted to give parents good basic information so they can make an informed decision about what's right for their child."

When Naberhaus and her staff started putting the agenda together, they were simply targeting parents. Once the line-

up of speakers was put together, though, they decided anyone who had anything to do with treating, helping or teaching autistic children would make a good audience.

Invitations were then sent out to area educators, who responded in kind by providing an estimated 25 percent of the attendance.

"That wasn't initially our intended audience," Naberhaus said. "But once we had the lineup together, we felt anyone who works with autistic kids would benefit."

The symposium opened and closed with a bang. Laurie Lundblad and Donna Omichinski are mothers of autistic children, and they started the day by discussing things from a parental perspective.

Omichinski's son, Joey, was diagnosed autistic almost eight years ago, and he has made such progress she felt compelled to give back.

"My husband and I went through a lot, because eight years ago diagnostic and assessment tools weren't as prevalent," said Omichinski, a resident of Saline. "We went through a lot trying to figure out what was wrong and how best to help him. I feel it's such a stressful time that if there's any way I can help someone to get them through that's what I wanted to do."

Nick Dubin, who was diagnosed with Asperger's at age 26, closed out the day talking about living successfully with autism.

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Date: March 23, 2005
Time: 1:30 p.m. EST
Place: Board of Education
Garden City Public Schools
Attn: Mr. Gary Marchel
1333 Radcliff
Garden City, MI 48135
734-762-8300

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after March 7, 2005. Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects-Engineers-Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge Plan Room, Southfield, Michigan; the Reed Construction Data Plan Room, Novi, Michigan; or the Construction Association of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of thirty (30) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: March 13, 2005

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FRONTIER

FROM PAGE A1

public forum inside John Glenn High School's auditorium. About 25 people attended. Rodriguez indicated that fees by facility users could help pay to operate the complex.

"If we build it, they will come, and it will be a benefit to the community," he said.

Some residents indicated support for Frontier Park; others criticized the plan. "Quite frankly, I don't like

you people digging in my pocket and trying to tell me how to spend my money," longtime city resident John McGuire said, calling the proposal too elaborate.

"This isn't Bloomfield Hills," McGuire said. "This is Westland."

Resident Eleanor Swistak called the Frontier Park idea progressive but said, "We don't have the money - bottom line."

CFP leaders have said the sports complex wouldn't cost taxpayers much each year, and they predicted that the facility would boost the community's

image and result in higher property values.

McGuire told CFP leaders that the small attendance at Wednesday's meeting indicated a lack of community support for Frontier Park.

"This place should be packed. I think you guys are fighting a losing battle," he said.

Rodriguez, however, said there may be many residents who favor the proposal but who didn't feel the need to attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, Frontier Park leaders will continue their push on Monday, during a 6 p.m.

session with city council members at Westland City Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

City council President Charles Pickering already has called talks of a tax proposal premature. He said Frontier Park officials first need to learn whether they can acquire land - much of it county-owned - to build the complex west of Central City Park.

On Wednesday, Rodriguez said CFP leaders have begun preliminary talks with some county officials.

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MAYBERRY

FROM PAGE A1

Kinkos and blew them up. The clan from Mayberry is seen throughout the eatery.

Katinsky is ready to hang up collector's plates, too.

When Don Knotts, who played Barney Fife, Andy Griffith's supportive sidekick, performed with Barbara Eden at the former George Burns Theater in Livonia, one of Katinsky's waitresses nabbed an autographed photo for her appreciative boss.

Katinsky likes to say the restaurant is located at the four corners of Farmington Hills, Southfield, Livonia and Redford Township.

There's always a bevy of mailed discount coupons circulating to residents in those towns.

Sometimes Katinsky hands out gift certificates to his regular customers.

And, his customers are loyal. Dolores Schihl, a former Redford Union school board member, likes the restaurant because of the prices and the

service.

She has been a repeat customer for years.

"The waitresses get to know you," Schihl said. "They are so pleasant and polite. I come quite often for breakfast and occasionally come for lunch and dinner. I bring my kids here."

Walter Cory, a Farmington Hills resident, eats all of his meals out and Mayberry's is a frequent stop, especially for breakfast three or four times a week.

"This is a convenient place to come," Cory said. "It's a nice place to come. I have been coming for years. I know all the waitresses by name."

Katinsky is especially proud of the Icelandic cod he serves, a popular item even when it is not Lent. New on the menu is the seafood plate.

Two people can eat lunch or dinner for about \$12.

"I try to keep the price fair," Katinsky said. "We try to be a family restaurant but we don't want that upscale table cloth image."

"I credit our success story to our staff."

He plans to open the Eggeptional Cafe in Commerce Township in May.

He recently spent \$250,000 on renovations at Mayberry's.

Families visiting ill relatives at nearby Botsford Hospital, who don't want to eat in the hospital cafeteria, are frequently referred to Mayberry's when they ask for information about a good place nearby to eat.

Restaurant manager Tim Bazy, a Canton Township resident, has known Katinsky since he was a teen.

He considers Mayberry's a fun place to work.

"I have never worked in a more pleasant restaurant," Bazy said.

Bazy's heart is warmed when customers call him by name and shake his hand.

Katinsky is married to Valerie. Their daughters, Jessica, 21, and Jennifer, 17, also work at the restaurant.

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Helen Thomas still seeking the truth after many years

For more than a half century, Helen Thomas broke through every glass ceiling the establishment put in her way. Young women weren't supposed to take off to Washington for careers in journalism. She did anyway.

Certainly no woman could expect to cover the White House. Helen, who grew up in Detroit, the daughter of working-class Lebanese parents, said thank you very much, and did it anyway. She became White House bureau chief for UPI when United Press International was still a big deal.

She beat down too many "men only" barriers to count, and the beauty was that this was never her main goal. She wanted simply to be the best reporter she could be, and she was. Helen covered every president from John F. Kennedy to William J. Clinton, and both irritated and won the respect of all of them.

Today, she still covers the White House in a different way; she writes two syndicated columns a week. She stuck with UPI through thin and thinner until the Moonies bought it in 2000, and she drew the line at working for the Moonies.

Last week she came to Wayne State University, her alma mater, to speak to a scholarship dinner in her honor. She told a rapt audience of budding journalists, many of them minorities and women, just how important their profession is. "Democracy dies behind closed doors," she said.

Though it may be true, as the Bible says, that "where there is no vision the people perish," Helen is quick to tell you that where there are no watchdogs, the people get screwed over. If liberals and conservatives can agree on anything these days, it ought to be that any government that does its business in secret is a government to be feared.

Governments — any and all governments — ought to be subject to as much scrutiny as possible. Next week has been proclaimed "sunshine week" by a coalition of news organizations, a week in which we both celebrate openness in government and push for more of the same.

The idea is that the people's business ought to be done in the bright sunshine of the public arena, not behind closed doors. The opposite policy, the idea that our leaders know better than we do and that we can't be trusted with the facts, was directly responsible for Vietnam.

The closed-door approach also has been responsible for a million lesser horrors on every level of government, library boards to city councils. Things are better than they used to be. Every state now has some form of open meeting law, though some have more teeth than others.

Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, the vast majority of public documents are open to public inspection, and federal agencies even have to help people locate specific documents they may be looking for.

Yet this still isn't good enough. As Helen Thomas warned, governments like to promise openness — and cut off access as soon as trouble appears.

"States have not done a very good job of adopting policies that ensure access," said Bill Chamberlin, who studies sunshine laws at the University of Florida. He is echoed by Fred Cate, a professor of law at Indiana University, who added something most journalists know:

"States have almost never complied faithfully with their open records laws," Cate said. "You have a high degree of ignorance about the law, and a high degree of willingness to disobey the law."

That's another reason that journalists, those pesky creatures with their pointed questions, are so necessary to a free society. Thomas Jefferson once said that "eternal vigilance is the price of freedom."

Journalists are the ones whom serve as the border patrol. And the bad news is that governments at all levels have used the threat of terrorism as an excuse to pinch off the public's right to know. Some states are better than others; according to a new University of Florida study on open government, Michigan is one of the most open when it comes to information.

But while the study isn't complete, Ohio now ranks as one of the six worst states for openness in the nation. "It is clear that state officials are frequently not being responsive to requests for public records," Chamberlin noted.

What's needed is to be a nag. Perhaps a gentle squeaky wheel, perhaps an annoying one, but a noisy one. Helen Thomas, a columnist now, but still a reporter, is still a burr under the saddle of this administration. This president seems less willing to accept questioning than others she's covered.

That's all right; she isn't about to pull her punches; she isn't even 85 yet. Last week Ann Coulter, a particularly vicious columnist in the Joe McCarthy mode, called Helen "an old Arab" and implied she was a security risk.

That created a stir. Actually, I heard about that first from Helen, and I think Ann Coulter would be horrified; I think Helen thought it was sort of funny. She is in the business of asking questions, not name-calling. Besides, when you are from Detroit, and have gone toe-to-toe with Richard Nixon, you don't get overly worried about a would-be intellectual bully who poses in a slit skirt.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

Leisurely walks on the beach may become a criminal offense

For three summers, we had the privilege of renting a box on a Lake Michigan beach. It was a flat-roofed, one-bedroom cottage. It was clean but somewhat rustic. It nestled into a grove of trees so well that it merely suggested its intrusion on nature.

But it wasn't the building that mattered. The cottage looked out on the endless vista of Lake Michigan from behind two sandy dunes that led down to a beach of hard sand and tall grass. It was a spectacular view and a beach made for walking.

We could walk a long way, though not without difficulty. The hard-packed sand gave way to looser patches which gave way to rock fields. Occasionally, a rivulet would impede our progress and we'd have to take off our shoes and wade into the chilly water.

Most cottages along this stretch of beach in north Michigan were at a distance behind protected dunes and sheltered from view by a mixture of evergreens and hard wood trees, but others were almost at the edge of the beach. Some were massive, ugly intrusions on the real beauty of the land. Others were plain, simple, fitting quietly into the landscape.

The house next to the box was new, large but attractive. The owners had a giddy, friendly German shepherd named Tin. He often greeted us on our walks and engaged us in a spirited round of chase the stick. He was an enthusiastic beach walker. When he was with his owners, he would often have to race back to prod them along.

This was a quiet area, though a public park was about a mile down the beach. There was never a crowd of walkers, but the cottage owners and the public beach visitors did take the opportunity to stretch their legs and invigorate their spirits with a beach walk.

This week, the Michigan Supreme Court heard a case that might, technically, threaten that opportunity to walk the beach, unless walkers stay where the water covers their feet.

The case stems from a dispute between two neighbors in Alcona County, Joan Glass and Richard Goeckel, and has escalated into a test of where public and private land begin and end on our Great Lakes beaches. Glass sued Goeckel when he wouldn't allow her on his property to walk the beach.

One side takes the position that public land extends to the high water mark on the beach, the other side says private owner-

ship extends to the water's edge. Briefs by environmentalists and property rights groups have been filed supporting the different positions.

A state appeals court split the difference and ruled that the land was owned by the state but property owners had the right to keep others off the beach (and into the water).

The irony is that many beachside homeowners would be very unhappy to have their progress impeded by forcing them to wade in the water (especially in the fall and spring). In a news story, one person associated with a property rights group allowed as his wife was a great beach walker, but he still supported the position that "it's all about ownership, and we want it clear that property owners, not the state, own that land."

While it's unlikely that a court ruling in favor of the property rights groups would lead to barriers on the beaches, it would technically allow them. On Tuesday, news reports said that Justice Marilyn Kelly was concerned that ruling in favor of the property owners would make Michigan the only one of the eight Great Lakes states to compel beach walkers to stay in the water. On the other hand, Justice Clifford Taylor wondered if those with property close to the waterline might be in jeopardy of losing their property to state confiscation.

Another beach, another summer. We were walking along Lake Superior from the bed and breakfasts where we were staying. We came upon a barrier with a big sign declaring "RIPARIAN RIGHTS KEEP OUT" with a long explanation that the property owner had rights to the land down to the water and he was ready to protect them, so beat it.

We can hope for some well-reasoned, Solomon-like decision from the court that protects the rights of those lucky and rich enough to own property on our beautiful Great Lakes and also protects the rights of all of us (including those property owners) to enjoy a long walk on our treasured beaches (of which 70 percent front private property).

I suspect that even if the court rules that property rights extend to the water, that beach walkers will continue to walk the beach and technically break the law. And most property owners will welcome walkers and expect to be welcomed in return.

As Woody Guthrie once told us all, "This land was made for you and me."

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net, by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by fax at (734) 591-7279.



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PRESIDENT AWARD

DEATHS

B
William John Barlow, of Livonia, died March 5.

C
William "Bill" E. Chickering, 82, died March 11.
Daniel Clifford, of Canton, died March 5.
James J. Crowe, 77, died March 7.

E
Donald Howard Ellis, 71, of Summerfield, Fla., died March 9.

H
George Mooris Haley, of Westland, died March 4.
Charles R. Hanson, 73, of Royal Oak, died March 7.
Virginia M. Hymes, of Livonia, died March 8.

K
Carol Ann Kwasky, of Livonia, died March 1.

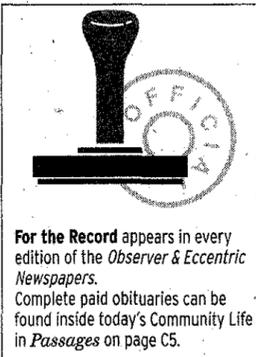
L
Dale Richard Logan, 54, of Marysville, Ohio, formerly of Livonia, died March 10.

M
Alma Aleata Marsack, 76, of Livonia, died March 10.
Agnes (Hart) Marsaleso, of Redford Township, died March 4.
Elizabeth B. McNamara, 89, died March 7.
John A. Mehock, 59, died March 5.
Daniel G. Myers, 73, of Westland, died March 7.
Jeanne Lynn Milligan (nee Art), 50, of Plymouth, died March 8.

P
Kathleen Marie Phelps, 49, of Rochester Hills, died March 10.

Q
A. Patricia Quiery, 85, of Farmington, died March 3.

S
Carol Ann Savage, of Canton Township, died March 4.
Sister Mary Patrice Sinnott, RSM, 87, died March 8.
Mike Smart, 56, died March 7.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life in Passages on page C5.

Lillian E. Symons, 82, of Plymouth Township, died March 10.

T
Dorothy A. Thorne, 69, of Barryton, died March 5.

V
Peter A. Ventura, 95, of Livonia, died Feb. 26.
Robert P. Vollmer, 79, of Plymouth, died March 6.

SPORTS GROUPS

Dad's Athletic Club of Westland - Softball for boys and girls ages 7-18. Sign up in March and April for summer season. Call Bud Prough at (734) 595-2951 or Michelle at (734) 721-7614 for more information.

Wayne Dolphin Swim Team
Come join one of the longest running recreational swim teams in the area. We need boys and girls ages 6-18 to continue a tradition of friendship and fun. For more information visit the Web site or contact President Mary Schirmer at (734) 397-8196, Vice President Donna Fox at (734) 729-5049 or Treasurer Tammy Deck at (734) 728-1099.

Warriors of Westland
The Warriors of Westland sports team for the physically challenged trains people ages 5 and up to par-

ticipate in track and field events. For more information, call Head Coach Cindy Hawk at (734) 513-8745.

Wayne Ford Civic League
The Wayne Ford Civic League provides T-ball, coach pitch, baseball and spring and fall soccer for children ages 4-10. For more information, call Patricia Tatum at (734) 467-8243.

Wayne-Westland Soccer Association
For more information, call (734) 467-5260.

Westland Hockey Association
For more information, call Chris Simonian at (734) 326-2146.

Westland Lawn Bowling Association
For more information call (734) 722-7630 or (734) 5228229.

Westland Wizardz
The Westland Wizardz wheelchair basketball team is for individuals 16 years of age or older with any impairment that prevents them from playing regular basketball. There is also a junior team for ages 10-16. For more information, call Shaun Graham at (734) 762-9573 or Jose Zavala at (734) 721-1835.

Westland Youth Athletic Association
The Westland Youth Athletic Association offers youth basketball, baseball, cheerleading and volleyball. For information, call (734) 421-0640.

FUN-4-ALL
This children's recreation scholarship program that was started by several concerned parents who wanted to find a way for children from financially stressed families who live in Westland to be able to participate in recreation programs. All applications must be turned in at least two weeks before the first class. Those who are interested in helping the program or need an application can contact Margaret Martin, program supervisor, at (734) 722-7620.

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Schoolcraft puts the focus on Latin America

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Spanish is America's other language. Latinos are the largest recognized minority in the United States. Latin music has been adding spice to popular music.

It's only natural that Schoolcraft College would follow a year of immersion in the volatile Middle East with Focus Latin America, a year-long look at the culture, language and people of Latin America.

Last year, Schoolcraft's International Institute took its cue from the headlines by sponsoring Focus Middle East, a year of activities, lectures, themed classes and a Cairo Coffeehouse finale.

Josselyn Moore, associate professor of sociology and anthropology and International Institute faculty chair, said Latin America was an obvious choice for the college's second yearlong plunge into a specific region.

"(We chose) Latin America because they're our neighbors and it's the largest minority group in the United States and because it has such economic importance," she said.

But Latin America isn't just one culture or lifestyle and Schoolcraft is planning programs that will try to encompass the broad range of Latin culture that ranges from the United States in Florida and the Southwest to Argentina and Chile.

"We're going to go into the culture, the music, the language," said Malasri Chaudhery, a part-time psychology instructor and member of the institute. "We'll get into specific areas that deal with the Spanish community, mestizo, defining what is Chicano, what is mestizo, what does it mean to be Latin American."

Public programs began in February and will continue through the calendar year, culminating in a Latin American style fiesta in November.

February programs included the film *For Love of Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story* starring Andy Garcia as the Cuban trumpet player who struggled for personal and artistic freedom in Castro's Cuba. It is the first of several films with Latin American themes that will be presented, a new feature of the special focus program.

Other February public events included a lecture on Caribbean music by Ozzie Rivera and a discussion of Detroit's Freedom House, which helps immigrants to the

city. (See related story for a list of programs through the end of April.)

RIVERA FEATURED

In addition to public programs, Moore said faculty members are encouraged to incorporate the focus theme into their classes.

"One of the joys is trying to get all that in," she said. "It's a campuswide event and we are trying to get all faculty involved, make it part of their assignments for credit. It gives the faculty an enormous amount. It seems foolhardy to try to tackle all of Latin America, but this gives us that kind of flexibility."

Two world famous artists with ties to Detroit will be featured in upcoming lectures, Diego Rivera and his wife, Frida Kahlo. Rivera painted the famous assembly lines murals in the center court of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"Rivera's importance comes in because he is someone who spoke for the people with his ideals and his art," said Chaudhery. "This is a good summary of everything we are trying to portray. We are trying to cover everything from all angles, but especially from the angle of the people. The mural we see in the DIA is very representative of people who work, who work hard. Latin Americans have really struggled to make it. That's why Diego Rivera is so important."

New this year is a school-sponsored tour to Mayan ruins in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Diane O'Connell, associate professor of geography, will be leading the tour the second week of June.

"It's an educational class so we meet for a month beforehand, twice a week to try to get a little bit about Latin American culture, history, economics, concerns to give them context for the region of Latin America," O'Connell said.

"Then we'll focus more on the specific area we're going to which is the Yucatan."

The class is for credit, but the public is also invited to sign up for the trip and audit the class. Students will be writing papers on the ruins, in

addition to soaking up some sun in Cancun.

AN EYE-OPENER

Moore said students have been enthusiastic about the focus program.

Dolly Randall-Kirkwood, who is studying early education and Spanish, said she is privileged to attend a college where students are exposed to so much information. She said the film on Sandoval was an eye-opener to her about the politics of the region.

Moore said the November fiesta will feature the music, food and arts of Latin America. She said last year local restaurants helped provide food for

the Cairo Coffeehouse and she's hoping to enlist some of the new restaurants in the area to help out this year. She said she is also working with Schoolcraft's culinary arts program about participation in the fiesta.

This emphasis of focusing on a particular culture is nothing new for O'Connell, who says it makes her proud to be a geography professor.

"In geography we think this is a time that come because it geography we have always thought systematically," she said. "We tend to focus on what issue is current, but there a lot more places than we have been focused on."



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schoolcraft associate professor of anthropology and sociology Josselyn Moore (left) discusses some Latin American artifacts with part-time psychology instructor Malasri Chaudhery and associate professor of geography Diane O'Connell.

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